



June 2006

Dear Interested Parties:

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources is completing the process of updating the 1992 *Forest Resource Plan*. The department began this process in March 2004 by scoping the need, purpose, policy objectives and significant environmental issues that should be considered when updating the plan. A significant amount of oral and written comments were received and as a result of this scoping effort, the department released a *Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Policy for Sustainable Forests*, held six public hearings across the state to obtain public comment, and has published the attached *Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Policy for Sustainable Forests*.

These Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) analyze 25 policy subject areas that are organized by four major policy categories: Economic Performance; Forest Ecosystem Health and Productivity; Social and Cultural Benefits; and Implementation. Key policy issues and decisions facing the Board of Natural Resources include Old-Growth Stands in Western Washington; Public Access and Recreation; Forest Health; Wildlife Habitat; and Forest Land Planning.

This Final EIS provides environmental analysis to assist the Board of Natural Resources in their decision-making process and ultimate adoption of the *Policy for Sustainable Forests*. The policies contained in this document will guide long-term sustainable management of 2.1 million acres of forested state trust lands. As a result, the people of Washington can expect the continual flow of economic, ecological and social benefits well into the future, including revenue to support our public institutions, creation of wildlife habitat, clean air and water, as well as outdoor recreation.

Thank you for your interest in this *Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Policy for Sustainable Forests*. A 7-day waiting period begins with the publication of this document. Next steps include presenting the policies analyzed in this Final EIS to the Board of Natural Resources for their consideration for adoption at their regularly scheduled July 11th meeting.

Sincerely,

Doug Sutherland
Commissioner of Public Lands

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N A T U R A L

R E S O U R C E S

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

on the

POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTS

JUNE 2006



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Natural Resources
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Fact Sheet

TITLE

Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Policy for Sustainable Forests

DESCRIPTION

The proposal is the adoption of new policies to update the 1992 *Forest Resource Plan* for forested state trust lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

PROPONENT AND LEAD AGENCY

Department of Natural Resources

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

July 2006

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DATE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS STATEMENT ISSUED

April 15, 2005

COMMENT PERIOD

Comments on the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* were received by May 16, 2005. Comments were submitted electronically on the DNR website at www.dnr.wa.gov, sent as e-mail attachments to the SEPA Center, sepacenter@wadnr.gov, or mailed to:
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PUBLIC HEARINGS CONDUCTED

May 3, 2005 – Lacey, Lacey Community Center at Woodland Creek Community Park
May 4, 2005 – Port Angeles, Peninsula College
May 5, 2005 – Mount Vernon, Best Western Cotton Tree Inn and Convention Center
May 9, 2005 – Longview, Cowlitz County PUD
May 10, 2005 – Bellevue, Bellevue Community College
May 11, 2005 – Ellensburg, Central Washington University
May 12, 2005 – Spokane, Hilton Garden Inn

DATE OF NEXT ACTION AND SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Policy for Sustainable Forests Release Date – June 2006

LOCATION OF REFERENCED MATERIALS

See contact information.

ANTICIPATED BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES ADOPTION OF THE POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTS

July 2006

COST/AVAILABILITY

Copies of this Final EIS are available at www.dnr.wa.gov/. A limited number of print copies and computer CDs will also be available at no charge. After these are distributed, additional copies will be available for the cost of printing or CD production, per chapter 42.17 RCW. Requests can be sent to the contact address.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Notice of the availability of this Final EIS is on the department's website at www.dnr.wa.gov. Copies will be sent to the Board of Natural Resources; all local government planning departments (city and county); affected Tribes; all state and federal agencies with jurisdiction over selected environmental organizations; academia; Washington newspapers; libraries; and all other interested parties.



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